

# CCL Newsletter

## April, 2024



Submitted by Kathy Donahoe

### President's Letter

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's been a beautiful Spring. Flowers and trees are absolutely gorgeous. We have had some good rain (not enough) and quite a bit of sunshine. The birds are singing, and the pollen is all over the cars. Now, if only the temperature would go up 10° or so.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be holding the Norfolk Harbor Deepening Atlantic Ocean Channel Phase 2 Construction Project groundbreaking ceremony at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 11:00 am. That is the formal title of the sand distribution and restoration effort that will be on-going for the next 18 months or so. As previously reported, we should see sand on Croatan Beach by July 2025.

Bob Lougen, our Vice-President, has created a new page on the Croatan website which covers the **Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind** project. He is posting the detailed information that he receives from Dominion Energy in addition to the periodic emails he sends out.

Please make sure you review Connie Agresti's safety notes in this newsletter.

We have a **Members Social this week**, on Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup> at Beachside Social off 27<sup>th</sup> St. and Atlantic for CCL members (adults only) from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. There will be a variety of games and plenty of seating, so you can socialize with your fellow members, as well as some appetizers and a drink provided by the CCL.

Other events include the **Annual Garage** on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and the **Croatan Cares 5K** on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. You can walk, run, or bike. See the website for details. Even if you don't participate, please donate. Croatan Cares is a charity event for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

Mark your calendar for Spring Fling – Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> on the point.

The Board continues to meet via Zoom. Your concerns are very important. Contact me at the email address below and I will send you an invitation with the link. The next meeting is on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

All the best,

Mike Kelly  
President, Croatan Civic League  
703.439.9153  
(M) 703.439.9153  
[president@croatanbeach.org](mailto:president@croatanbeach.org)  
[mkellyav8@aol.com](mailto:mkellyav8@aol.com)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

4/15 Women's Club  
4/18 Book Club  
5/6 CCL Meeting  
4/11 Spring Event  
5/4 Neighborhood Garage Sale  
6/1 Spring Fling



## Upcoming Events

### Croatan Women's Club



Bring a picture/ item/ description  
of something on your bucket list  
to present!

A light dinner will be provided,  
Please bring a beverage of choice

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## CROATAN BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting Thursday,  
April 18, 2024 Time 7 P.M.  
Hostess: Susan Martin  
Place: 853 S Atlantic

Book: The Frozen River – Ariel Lawhon

All Neighbors are welcome. Just read the book (or maybe not – come to socialize and hear a review of the book) and notify the hostess that you will be attending via a response to the email. Bring a light snack/wine to share, if desired. We meet on the third Thursday of each month, location varies.

### Future Selections (in order)

Saved – Benjamin Hall

The Emancipation of Evan Wallis – Jeffrey Blount

Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone – Benjamin Stevenson

Next Year in Havana – Chanel Cleeton

Ordinary Grace – William Kent Kruger

The Measure – Nikki Erlick

The Heaven and Earth Grocery – James McBride



**Croatan CIVIC LEAGUE**

# SPRING Social

## April 11th

Join us at Beachside Social for a CCL Members social from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Play shuffleboard, bocce, board games or just socialize. CCL members will receive 2 free drinks and appetizers. Please RSVP at <https://www.croatanbeach.org/social>



RSVP

BEACHSIDE SOCIAL- 2728 ATLANTIC AVE ON THE 2ND FLOOR  
FOR MORE INFO VISIT: [WWW.BEACHSOCIALVB.COM](http://WWW.BEACHSOCIALVB.COM)



**CROATAN COMMUNITY OFF**

# Garage SALE

The CCL will advertise in the Pilot and several online websites.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4TH**  
**8AM - 12PM**

CCL will post houses with garage sales on our website. Also CroatanCL is joining ShadowlawnCL to hold garage sales on May 4th to drive more traffic this year.

# VBCCO Meeting March 27, 2024

## Submitted by James Ferrera

- VBCCO Bylaws changes with vote April 27th. Minor changes primarily. It splits the Directors from the Officers.
- Dominion Energy Wind Farm update. Dominion admits that the wind turbines are visible under certain conditions. Since this contradicts the promise they would not be visible the company has agreed to make several large payments. 290k to VB directly. \$650K to Old Lighthouse Committee for views impacted. They will replace some trees they are tearing down for the under ground cables.
- Atlantic Water Park 20th Street. Wave water quality is an issue with arsenic and other toxins. Pumping water is on hold. VB has told the owner that is his issue to resolve.
- The Comp plan continues. VBCCO would like to see the notifications expanded beyond the adjacent streets to the new development. Would also like the closest active Civic League to the development as well.
- Rudee Inlet Loop. 6 Million into a 50 Million project.
- City Budget is on City website.
- The Great Neck Civic League President addressed the group on status of Wycliffe and the zoning issues. Now the developer is proposing office space that is currently zoned for neighborhoods. The lake fill-in plan has been deferred.
- Guest Speakers were up next. Mike Callan, School Board Member. Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer. Dr. Don Robertson, School Superintendent.
- Key Takeaways:
- Chromebooks should only be used 25% of time at school in classrooms.
- Elementary schools should have no sexual explicit books.
- If a parent has an issue with a book that comes home the teacher should be contacted. The teacher should provide an alternative book.
- If a parent finds a book in the library that they don't approve of it can be blocked for their student. If the school receives enough complaints the book will be pulled for all.
- Next VBCCO meeting is Wednesday April 17, 2023 6:30PM at Bow Creek Recreation Center. Guest Speakers Kayla Lundy from Virginia Art Festival and Terri Gorman from Lynnhaven River Now.

## Safety/Security – April, 2024

### Bottom Line Up Front:

- Beach Notes – Annual Reminders; **PLEASE share with visitors/renters**
- Ballons
- Croatan Parking Lot
- Lithium Battery Fires - Use the Right Charger
- Off Duty Management
- CAC – Hail Capt. Wessler, Farewell Capt. McBrien

## **Beach Notes:**

**Holes:** The recent death of a young girl in NC prompts me to remind all not to bury individuals in deep holes. The sides can fall in and suffocate a person, even if their head is above the level of the sand. If you (or your children, or your dog) dig a hole – **PLEASE fill it in!** Sprains and broken bones are no way to spend a vacation.

**Sunscreen:** Please wear it. It is cheaper and less “yucky” than cancer.

**No Diving:** Storms, tides, and winds shift the bottom sand off of Croatan Beach on a daily basis. Whether on a board or swimming, diving into the water can break your neck leading to paralysis or death. We average one permanent injury per year – don’t be that one!

**Dunes:** Please stay off the dunes. Not only does city ordinance forbid it, but the damaged dunes may reveal dangerous metal stakes only upon stepping, falling, or sliding onto one.

**Dogs:** Plastic bags for picking up after one’s pet are available at each beach entrance, as are trash barrels. No excuses.

**Rip Currents:** Usually announced by red flags flying at lifeguard stations. If pulled out to sea by a rip current, do not try to swim against the current. Rather, swim parallel to the shore until out of the current and then return to safety. Don’t swim alone and watch children closely.

**Thunder and Lightning:** If you hear it or see it, get off the beach. Mother nature can be pretty awesome, but she can also be deadly.

**Plastic Kills:** please police the beach, especially your area, when you leave. Plastic bottles, sales tags from chairs, umbrellas, etc., straws, zip ties, and the like can kill marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, and aquatic birds. Please pick it up and throw it away.

**Dangers in the Sand:** Broken glass, discarded fishing tackle, and rusted metal are perennial hazards. A new add to the list is High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), a waste by-product of the off-shore wind-farm cabling installation. Its black shards are hard, sharp, and can easily cut feet and paws. Dominion Energy has promised to reduce its discharge and to comb the beach for debris twice daily, but I’d still watch my step. Please pick up any dangerous detritus you find and discard it properly in trash barrels available at every beach entrance.

**Unexploded Ordnance:** Military operations have been a daily occurrence in, off of, and above Virginia Beach for more than a century. Submarine and anti-submarine actions occurred within sight of our shores during both World Wars. The question is not “if,” so much as “when and where” unexploded ordnance (UXO) will wash up. Even expended flares can cause serious burns. If you see UXO, **do not touch it**. Keep others away and **call 9-1-1**.

**Balloons:** Spring ushers in graduations, weddings, and other celebrations. Please ensure that your celebration does not include non-biodegradable balloons (think: mylar and the attached ribbons). Balloons do not fly forever - they have to come down somewhere and it is often in the ocean where marine life can ingest them and die. Virginia State Law imposes a fine of \$25 per balloon on non-biodegradable balloons released by individuals (16-years-old or older).

**Croatan Parking Lot:** As of April 1, those parking after 10:00 AM started incurring a \$3 VB-Resident (\$7 non-VB resident) fee. Payment is made at kiosks located near the bathhouse. A welcome change is that new provisions allow for reentry the same day without having to repay. Hours of operation are listed as 6:00 AM until 8:00 PM.



**Lithium Batteries, Fires, and Chargers:** VBFD Chef Kenneth Pravetz assured attendees at a Public Safety Community Meeting on March 20, that lithium batteries are not inherently fire-prone, but cautioned users of all rechargeable devices to ensure that they use the proper charger for the device – not just some aftermarket charger that has a similar plug.

**Off Duty Management (ODM) for Security Providers:** Those who read my notes in the March CCL Newsletter may recall that I spoke of a new (eff. 04/02/2024) Off-Duty Management (ODM) system for engaging our patrol officers in scheduling their security patrols. I have subsequently learned several nuances of the new system. The key changes are:

- a. New hourly rate will be \$72.15. This is up from \$65/hour we had previously paid.
- b. Blocks of patrol time must be in a minimum of 3-hour increments.
- c. The requestor must specify the time window for the patrol. Heretofore, the officers were allowed to patrol during their “as available” off-duty hours. ODM removes that flexibility.

**Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC):** The March 13 meeting of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee included a briefing by Captain Michelle Wyatt, VBPD Professional Standards, on the aforementioned ODM system.

Commander of the Second Precinct, **Captain “Dirty” Harry McBrien** will be retiring. He will be replaced by **Captain Bradley Wessler**. Capt. Wessler previously served in the Second Precinct as a lieutenant and is familiar with Croatan. We will Hail & Farewell Captains McBrien and Wessler at the upcoming CAC meeting, to be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the conference room of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad #14, 740 VB Blvd (17<sup>th</sup> Street). Please park on the east side of the building. CAC meetings are open to all.

M. C. “Connie” Agresti,  
CCL Safety and Security Director

## Welcome to Croatan Beach

**For Your Safety, please heed the following guidelines:**

**Holes:** The recent death of a young girl in NC prompts me to remind all not to bury individuals in deep holes. The sides can fall in and suffocate a person, even if their head is above the level of the sand. If you (or your children, or your dog) dig a hole – **PLEASE fill it in!** Sprains and broken bones are no way to spend a vacation.

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**Dogs:** Plastic bags for picking up after one’s pet are available at each beach entrance, as are trash barrels. No excuses. Dogs are allowed on beach during the season only during daylight hours between 6:00 PM and 10:00 AM.

**Rip Currents:** Usually announced by red flags flying at lifeguard stations. If pulled out to sea by a rip current, do not try to swim against the current. Rather, swim parallel to the shore until out of the current and then return to safety. Don't swim alone and watch children closely.

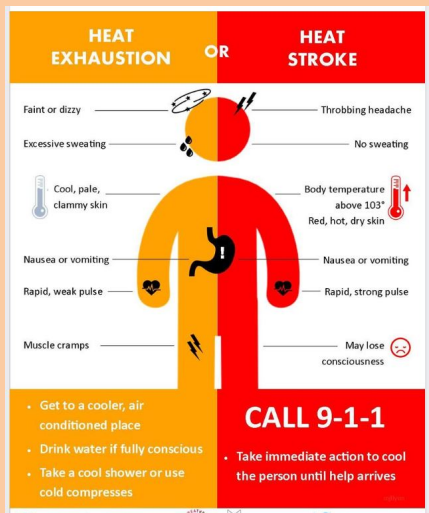
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### Mental Crisis/Suicide Prevention Hotline – 9-8-8



## Neighborhood Contacts

### Welcome Wagon

Contact Cheryl Garvey  
cgcroatan@gmail.com  
(757)739-7078

if you know of new  
Croatan neighbors



### Who to Call

Dead or Stranded Marine  
Mammal (dolphin, seal, whale)  
or Sea Turtle Virginia Aquarium  
Stranding  
Response Team  
**757-385-7575**



**Book Collection**

Betty Rosignolo  
 760 Virginia Dare Drive  
 437-8662; rbrosignolo@cox.net  
 For Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital Auxiliary

**Magazine Collection**

Michele Speight,  
 Teen Crisis Intervention  
 549 Bushnell Drive  
 428-7947msp8@cox.net

Name	Committee	Email	Phone
Jo Bloomquist	Women's Club	<a href="mailto:vagolfers@mac.com">vagolfers@mac.com</a>	
Alice Weisz	Book Club	<a href="mailto:bookclub@croatanbeach.org">bookclub@croatanbeach.org</a>	425-2068
Wes Laine	Surfing Advisor	<a href="mailto:surfing@croatanbeach.org">surfing@croatanbeach.org</a>	428-2620
Ken Jobe	Special Advisor	<a href="mailto:kejo425@aol.com">kejo425@aol.com</a>	428-0328

### Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
Mike Kelly	President, VB Gov
Bob Lougen	Vice President, Website, Facebook, Directory
Mike Fantozzi	Director, Secretary
Jan Nielson	Director, Treasurer
M.C. "Connie" Agresti	Director, Security, Citizen's Advisory Committee
Frank Borum	Director, Traffic Mgmt.
Kathy Donahoe	Director, Newsletter
Jim Ferrera	Director, VB Council of Civic Organizations
Bill Garvey	Past President, By-Laws
Cheryl Garvey	Director, Welcome Wagon Landscaping



## Croatan Civic League Board of Directors

Name	Title
Jan Perriello	Director, Short-Term Rentals
Jen Resio	Director, Spring Fling
Katie Ripberger	Director, Logo wear, Social Activities
Amanda Robinson	Social Activities, Children's Programs
Amber Torgensen	Director, Halloween Events
Eileen Wren	Director